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## Public Health Research@Maryland to Showcase The Changing Climate and Health

2015 PUBLIC HEALTH  
RESEARCH@MARYLAND



**THE CHANGING CLIMATE AND HEALTH**  
How Health Care Reform And Climate Change Impact Population Health  
PUBLICHEALTHRESEARCH.UMD.EDU

**April 8, 2015** - Media Advisory

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**What:** The third annual Public Health Research@Maryland day will take place on Thursday April 9, 2015 from 8:45 am to 5 pm at the University of Maryland, College Park. This year's theme "The Changing Climate and Health" will explore the latest science on public health topics, such as the impact of extreme weather events on health and disease, marijuana's impact on cognition and achievement in youth, programs to support maternal and child health, and innovative approaches to improve health care and reduce costs in Maryland. In addition to two keynote lectures, four panel sessions will be led by public health experts from both the University of Maryland, College Park and University of

Maryland, Baltimore campuses with guest experts from county, state and federal health agencies. A research poster session will highlight diverse public health research topics.

Visit: <http://publichealthresearch.umd.edu/agenda>

**Who:** The event will bring together hundreds of faculty and student researchers from area universities, along with community advocates and governmental public health leaders to discuss how recent research developments can be applied to protect the health and well-being of communities in Maryland and beyond. This conference occurs during National Public Health Week, organized by the American Public Health Association during the first full week of April each year, to recognize public health contributions and highlight issues important to improving our nation.

**Where:** Adele H. Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

### Keynote address: Climate, Infectious Disease and Human Health in an Era of Climate Change (9:15-10:30 AM)

**Rita Colwell, PhD**

Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland, College Park  
Senior advisor and chairman emeritus, Canon US Life Sciences, Inc.  
President and CEO of CosmoSID, Inc.

Dr. Colwell studies the interconnections between global infectious diseases, water, and health and is developing an international network to address emerging infectious diseases and water issues, including safe drinking water for both the developed and developing world. Known for her research related to the *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium that causes cholera, she and her team were the first to use remote satellite data to develop a predictive model for cholera outbreaks in east Asia, and she is the first scientist to link global warming with a potential rise in cases of infectious disease.

### Panel Session: "What We Know and Don't Know about Climate Change and Health" (10:30-11:30 AM)

Leading environmental health experts will discuss what is known about extreme temperature events and the relationship to health outcomes, including asthma ER visits, incidence of hay fever and salmonella infections.

**Panel:**

**Amir Sapkota, PhD**, Associate Professor, Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health and Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UMD School of Public Health;  
**Laura L. Hungerford, DVM, MPH, PhD**, Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology and Public Health, UM School of Medicine;  
**Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH** Director, Environmental Health Bureau Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene;  
**Jennifer Martin, MA, JD** Baltimore City Health Dept.

### **Opportunities for a Better State of Maternal and Child Health in Maryland (12:00-12:50 PM)**

Infant mortality is one of the most critical predictors of the health of a population. While Maryland has made significant strides to reduce infant death in recent years, health disparities persist in certain communities. Baltimore city has a teen birth rate twice as high as the state of Maryland and three times as high as the national average. The session will explore the most pressing maternal and child health issues and programs to address them in Prince George's County and Baltimore.

**Panel:**

**Sandra L. Hofferth, PhD**, Professor, Dept. of Family Science, UMD School of Public Health; **Wendy G. Lane, MD, MPH**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology and Public Health, UM School of Medicine;  
**Rebecca Dineen, MS**, Assistant Commissioner, Maternal and Child Health, Baltimore City Health Dept.;  
**Pamela Creekmur, RN**, Health Officer and Director, Prince George's County Health Dept.

### **Impact of Marijuana Use on Cognitive Processes and Academic Achievement: What does this mean for college students? (1:00-1:50 PM)**

With D.C. joining the 23 states that legalize some form of marijuana use, research into the health effects of marijuana has become more critical – especially for segments of population most likely to be affected. Dr. Amelia Arria, a nationally recognized young adult health expert, will discuss the relationship between marijuana use and academic performance in college students, while neuroscientist Dr. Asaf Keller will present research showing that regular marijuana use during adolescence may permanently impair cognition and increase the risk of psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia. David K. Mineta will outline the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's research and prevention campaigns for school-aged marijuana users.

**Panel:**

**Amelia Arria, PhD**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health; Director, Center on Young Adult Health and Development, UMD School of Public Health

**Asaf Keller, PhD**, Professor, Dept. of Anatomy and Neurobiology, UM School of Medicine

**Introductory comments: David K. Mineta, MSW**, Deputy Director of Demand Reduction for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

### **Keynote Address: Becoming The Healthiest Nation: A Public Health Approach (2:15-3:30 PM)**

**Georges C. Benjamin, MD**

Executive Director, American Public Health Association

Dr. Benjamin is leading APHA's push to make America the healthiest nation in one generation. Known as one of the nation's most influential physician leaders, he speaks passionately about the health issues having the most impact today. He previously served as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and oversaw the expansion and improvement of the state's Medicaid program. *Interviews with Dr. Benjamin can be arranged between 1:30-2:00 PM.*

### **Panel Session: Maryland's Health System Initiatives And Population Health (3:45-4:45 PM)**

Experts in health care reform will discuss ways that Maryland is working to deliver better health care at a lower cost, including new innovations such as the "global budget revenue" program, which is moving the state toward paying healthcare providers based on improving population health rather than on volume of services.

**Panel: Stephen B. Thomas, PhD**, Professor of Health Services Administration and Director, Maryland Center for Health Equity at the UMD School of Public Health; **Karen S. Kauffman, PhD, CRNP, RN, FAAN**, Chair and Associate Professor of Family & Community Health at the UMB School of Nursing; **Madeleine Shea, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Health, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; **George H. Bone M.D.**, Commissioner, Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.

**Media:** Media coverage is welcome and interviews can be arranged upon request (contact Kelly Blake, [kellyb@umd.edu](mailto:kellyb@umd.edu)). Parking is available in the Union Lane Garage. (Go past the Stamp Student Union [right], turn right onto Union Lane and make an immediate left into the parking garage.)

**Background:** Public Health Research@Maryland day is part of the *MPowering the State* initiative, designed to enhance collaboration between the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. This annual event is sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Public Health (College Park) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (Baltimore). This year's event is also co-sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Foundation, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, and Agilent Technologies.

## Related Links

[Public Health Research@Maryland: The Changing Climate and Health](#)

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